

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08068 111628Z

42

ACTION EB-11

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O 111555Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5315

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ITC CHARTER FLIGHTS BY CAPITAL, SATURN

REF: STATE 122296

1. CAPITAL JUNE 11 ITC CHARTER ULTIMATELY PERSONALLY APPROVED BY MINISTER TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION PRETI AFTER EMBASSY INTERVENTION VIA MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). CIVILAVIA NEVER DISAPPROVED APPLICATION, BUT, BECAUSE OF REQUIRED 60 DAY ADVANCE NOTICE NOT GIVEN, CIVILAVIA WOULD NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZE WITHOUT PRIOR MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. PRETI UNAVAILABLE EVENING MAY 10 DUE GOVERNMENT CRISIS BUT ON MORNING MAY 11 HE SIGNED NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION. CAPITAL FLIGHT, WHICH ALREADY EN ROUTE, THEN LANDED AT CIAMPINO. ACCORDING LOCAL CAPITAL REP, AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO GENEVA IF AUTHORIZATION NOT GRANTED. CIVILAVIA UPSET THAT AIRCRAFT DEPARTED US PRIOR TO FLIGHT BEING AUTHORIZED. FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR WAS THAT PASSENGER LIST RECEIVED ONLY FOUR (4) DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN ITALY, NOT RPT NOT 20 DAYS IN ADVANCE AS REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS.

2. CIVILAVIA REPS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SATURN JUNE 12 CHARTER FLIGHT "READY FOR SIGNATURE." FORMAL APPROVAL SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING LATE JUNE 11 OR EARLY JUNE 12. CIVILAVIA REPS
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FURTHER STATE SECOND SATURN ITC CHARTER FLIGHT IS, ACCORDING

APPLICATION, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19. MOREOVER, NO RPT NO PASSENGER LIST YET RECEIVED BY CIVILAVIA FOR SECOND SATURN ITC CHARTER.

3. CIVILAVIA'S ITC CHARTER REGULATIONS CLEARLY STATE APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LESS THAN 60 DAYS IN ADVANCE AND THAT PASSENGER LIST MUST BE PROVIDED NOT LATER THAN 20 DAYS IN ADVANCE. FIRST LEGAL DATE FOR FILING ITC APPLICATIONS WAS MAY 1, 1974. REGULATIONS MAKE NO RPT NO PROVISIONS FOR EXCEPTIONS. LOCAL CAPITAL AND SATURN REPS FULLY AWARE THESE REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WERE NOT RPT NOT MET IN THESE THREE CASES.

4. EMBASSY USED FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS WITH MFA: A) MINISTRY TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION UNDULY DELAYED APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION OF ITC CHARTER REGULATIONS. CARRIERS ORIGINALLY TOLD THEY WOULD BE IN EFFECT IN JANUARY 1974 AND PLANNED PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS ACCORDINGLY.
B) CIVILAVIA SHOULD HAVE DENIED IMMEDIATELY WHEN IT OBVIOUS REQUIREMENTS NOT MET, RATHER THAN (AS IS THEIR USUAL PROCEDURE) DOING NOTHING UNTIL LAST MINUTE.
C) DENIAL WOULD HARM ITALIAN TOURISM, RESULTING IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS WHICH ITALY COULD ILL-AFFORD.

5. COMMENT: HAVING SUCCESSFULLY ASKED CIVILAVIA IGNORE ITS OWN REGULATIONS, EMBASSY HOPES CAB AND DEPARTMENT WILL BE EQUALLY UNDERSTANDING OF FUTURE ALITALIA APPLICATIONS (E.G., FOR "WET LEASE") FILED ON SHORT NOTICE. EMBASSY TRUSTS US CARRIERS WILL BE ABLE MEET CIVILAVIA REQUIREMENTS AFTER JULY 1, 1974, SINCE 60 DAYS ADVANCE APPLICATION WILL THEN BE POSSIBLE. BEAUDRY

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